



Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work

House Health Committee

March 25, 2026

Senate Bill 18 – *State Board of Social Work Examiners – Provisional License to Practice Social Work – Established*

POSITION: SUPPORT AS AMENDED

The Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work (GWSCSW) was established in 1975 to promote and advance the specialization of clinical practice within the social work profession. Clinical social workers are licensed to evaluate, diagnose and treat mental disorders and substance use and addictive disorders and are licensed as medical professionals. Through our lobbying, education, community building, and social justice activities, we affirm our commitment to the needs of those in our profession, their clients, and the community at large. The Maryland Legislation and Advocacy Committee of GWSCSW respectfully supports the amended Senate Bill 18.

While Senate Bill 18 and House Bill 769 were amended with slight variations, both bills preserve the conditional license in statute while establishing a new "Provisional License." This framework allows individuals who have completed the necessary education and experience for bachelor's or master's level licensure to begin practicing under a board-approved supervisor before passing their examination. Importantly, the exam requirement remains a prerequisite for obtaining a full license.

Regarding the duration of licensure, the Senate version (Senate Bill 18) provides for a two-year term with no option for renewal, while the House version (House Bill 769) allows for a one-time renewal for a total of four years. GWSCSW supports the Senate's more limited two-year duration to ensure a timely transition to full licensure.

Furthermore, the bills differ on whether supervised hours earned under a provisional license may be applied toward an LCSW-C license. While the Senate version prohibits these hours from counting, the House version permits them; GWSCSW supports the House position on this matter to better facilitate clinical career advancement. For these reasons, we support Senate Bill 18 as amended.

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